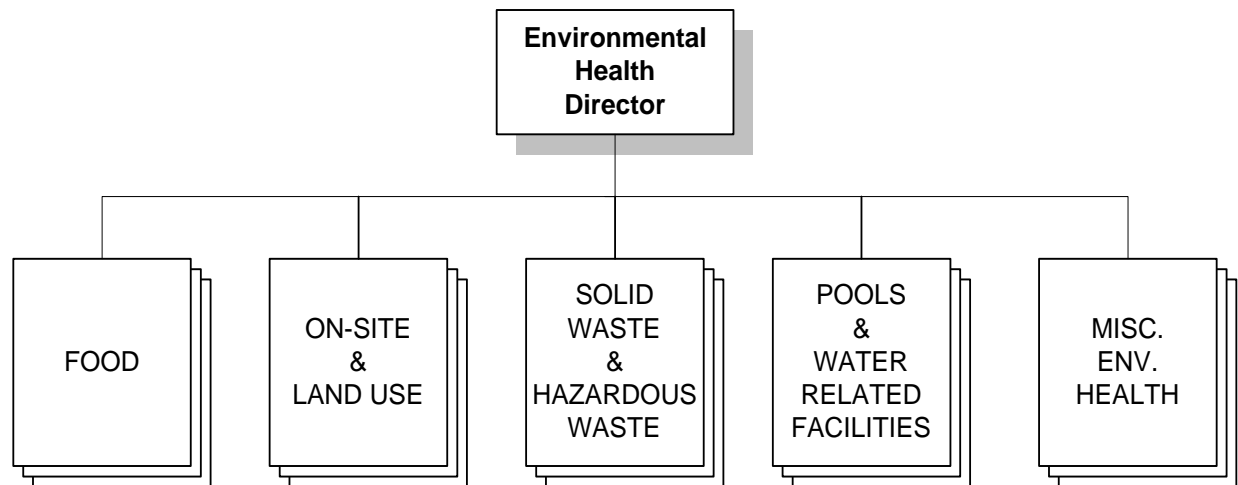
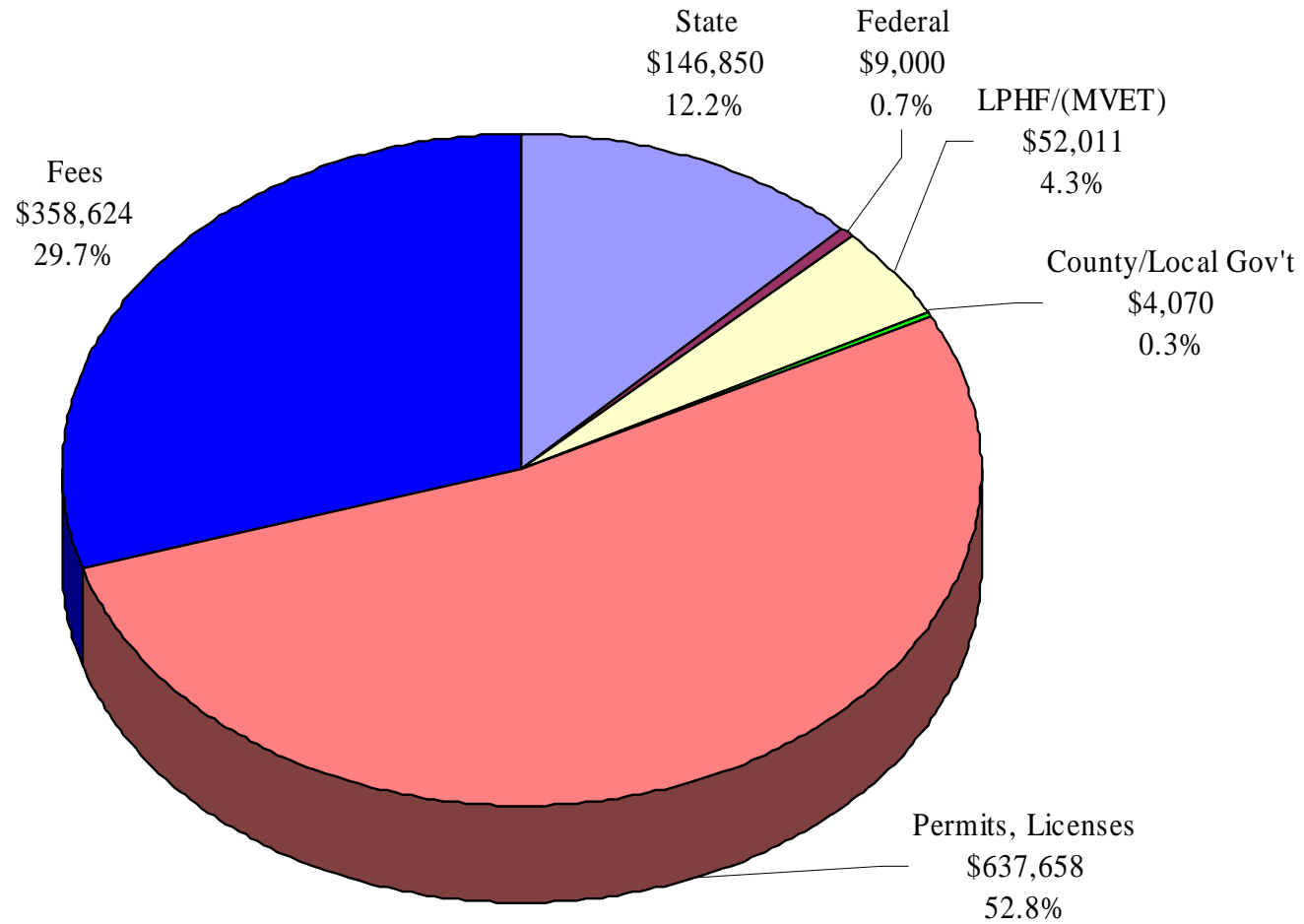


Environmental Health Programs



2005 Environmental Health Revenue Sources



Total EH Revenue = \$1,207,669

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Environmental Health (EH) serves as the origins for all modern public health practice. EH programs are founded upon an understanding that unsanitary and/or toxic environmental conditions can adversely impact a community's health. EH programs attempt to mitigate adverse health impacts using public education and via regulations which govern food



service, sewage, solid waste, drinking water, air quality, and disease carrying vectors. *EH programs, not modern medicine, are primarily responsible for the vast increases in life expectancy and improved quality of living which has occurred during the 20th century.*

Executive Summary

In 2005, EH Management continued to focus their efforts on reinforcing critical Division infrastructure by improving the District's sanitary code, developing and implementing standardized policies and procedures, and redistributing personnel resources as necessary to better accomplish our public health mission. Funding for EH programs was provided as follows: 79% user fees, 14% grants, and 6% discretionary District funds. Major program initiatives included implementation of new state regulations governing food safety, public pools, and indoor air. Noteworthy achievements included addition of a walk-in computer testing center for food service workers, new in-house nitrate testing service for water samples, recruitment of an EH intern from the University of Washington, and receipt of a letter of commendation from the Douglas County Solid Waste Advisory Committee in recognition of improvements made to the Division's Solid Waste Compliance Program.

Outstanding Challenges

Modern business practices require and public expectations demand vastly improved accessibility to EH data. Presently, most program data is maintained only in hardcopy format or in stand alone databases. Using improved data management software, digitalized data would give EH managers an enhanced ability to evaluate program performance and provide for convenient public access to information via the internet. Unfortunately, such a large project is beyond the District's present funding resources. In an effort to bridge this funding gap, the EH Division submitted a \$285K grant proposal for technology infra-structure enhancement to the MJ Murdock Trust Foundation. Regardless of the response, this proposal will serve as a foundation for additional grant funding requests.

2006 Objectives

- Select, monitor, and evaluate performance measures for EH Division
- Work in partnership with the Department of Health to develop state-wide standardized environmental health programs outcomes measures
- Design & implement onsite septic systems operations & maintenance program

Food Safety

Program Description:

The Center for Disease Control estimates nationally that food borne illness results in 76 million illnesses, 300,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths annually. Most illnesses are the result of improper cooking & holding temperatures, cross contamination, and poor hand washing practices. To protect public health, Health District personnel provide basic training to food industry employees, conduct regular inspections of food service establishments, review menu and design plans for new restaurants, and investigate food borne illness reports and complaints of unsanitary conditions.



Program Cost: \$268,336

Employees: 3.61 FTE

Revenue Sources:	User fees	90%
	Grant funds	5%
	Discretionary	5%

Delivery Measures:

- 634 Permanent FSE's permitted
- 934 Routine inspections conducted
- 125 Re-inspections conducted
- 423 Temporary events permitted
- 290 Temporary events inspected
- 4052 Food worker cards issued
- 579 People attended food safety outreach classes
- 121 Complaints investigated and resolved
- 0 Food borne illness outbreaks investigated

Notes & Updates:

- Established walk-in computer testing center for food service employees;
- Implemented new state food code and clean indoor air act;
- Developed and adopted revised policies & procedures for food program; and
- Filled vacant EH II position.

Challenges:

The Food Program is convening a new Food Advisory Committee. Committee members will meet with District staff twice annually to offer input concerning best practices, fiscal policies, public education, and compliance strategies.



On-site Septic Systems/Land Use

Program Description:

Septic system effluent contains numerous pathogens capable of causing serious human illness. To protect public health, Health District personnel evaluate the suitability of proposed installation sites, review the design & construction of new septic systems, assess the operation of old systems, license system installers, and investigate reports of failing septic systems.

Program Cost: \$266,470

Employees: 2.70 FTE

Revenue Sources:

User fees	93%
Grant funds	0%
Discretionary	7%

Delivery Measures:

517	New and reused septic systems inspected
148	Proposed septic systems sites evaluated
86	Failing septic systems investigated
92	Septic system installers and pumps licensed
17	Existing systems evaluated for home loans and property sales
251	Subdivisions, short plats, other land use development applications reviewed

Notes & Updates:

- Began implementing revised state regulations (most changes do not become effective until July 2007).

Challenges:

- Secure funding to digitize and electronically manage program information
- Develop local Operations & Management program.



Solid & Hazardous Waste

Program Description:

Local health departments regulate solid waste because improper disposal practices are known to attract disease carrying vermin and because it has the potential to adversely impact air & water quality. To protect public health, Health District personnel investigate complaints concerning solid waste accumulations & illegal dumping, regulate the operation of solid waste handling facilities, review design plans for proposed solid waste facilities, and monitor the maintenance of closed landfills.

Program Cost: \$201,947

Employees: 2.66 FTE

Revenue Sources:

User fees	72%
Grant funds	26%
Discretionary	2%

Delivery Measures:

- 7 Solid waste facility permits reviewed and renewed
- 47 Compliance inspections of active solid waste facilities conducted
- 18 Compliance inspections of Biosolids facilities (permitted by DOE) conducted
- 3 Closed landfills monitored
- 109 Solid waste complaints investigated
- 91 Solid waste complaint files closed



Notes & Updates:

- Reviewed, revised, and re-executed Waste Management Inc.'s financial assurance instruments to insure funding for landfill closure/post-closure

Challenges:

- Complete review of expansion proposal for Wenatchee Regional Landfill & Recycling Facility
- Maintain efforts to achieve high level of abatement of solid waste nuisances



Living Environment (Pools & Spas)

Program Description:

Pool, spas, and water parks are a potential source for waterborne illnesses, unintentional injuries, and accidental drowning. To protect public health, Health District personnel review design plans for proposed facilities, investigate complaints and injury reports, and conduct routine health and safety inspections of all permitted facilities.



Program Cost: \$26,502

Employees: 0.41 FTE

Revenue Sources:	User fees	94%
	Grant funds	0%
	Discretionary	6%

Delivery Measures:

180	Operating permits issued
220	Routine (178) & follow-up (42) inspection completed
0	Complaints responded to
0	Illness/injuries investigated

Notes & Updates:

- Completed revision of program materials including inspection checklist, enforcement matrix, and staff guidelines
- Implemented new state regulations governing water recreation facilities; and
- Recruited Environmental Health Intern to assist with seasonal pool inspections.

Challenges:

- Gain increased local capacity to independently conduct design plan reviews;
- Partner with local pool service representatives to achieve improved compliance outcomes; and
- Continually recruit an EH intern from the University Washington to assist with seasonal pool inspections.

Chemical & Physical Hazards

Program Description:

The objective of the Chemical & Physical Hazards Program is to prevent public exposure to hazardous chemicals which are used during the illegal production of methamphetamines and other activities. These substances are highly toxic and can cause chemical burns, respiratory problems, and may result in long-term health impairment. To protect public health, the Health District works with local law enforcement on reported methamphetamine labs to identify suspect properties and post them as “Unfit for Use” as appropriate. Once posted, District personnel provide technical assistance to property owners concerning required cleanup measures.

Program Cost: \$24,478

Employees: 0.55 FTE

Revenue Sources:

User fees	1%
Grant funds	83%
Discretionary	16%

Delivery Measures:

- 4 Properties with reported Meth labs assessed for chemical contamination
- 0 Properties with reported Meth labs posted “Unfit for Use”
- 1 Properties with reported Meth labs successfully decontaminated
- 7 Initial investigations of properties suspected of other contamination
- 5 Detailed Site Hazard Assessments of contaminated properties completed

Notes & Updates:

- None

Challenges:

- Work with LHJ partners to secure State funding for site clean up & remediation



Drinking Water

Program Description:

Contaminated drinking water is a known source for waterborne illnesses such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery, and diarrhea. To protect public health, District staff review development proposals for the presence of approved water sources, conduct pre-construction site evaluations for new water systems, monitor water quality data for operating water systems, and conduct sanitary surveys of Group B and small Group A water systems.

Program Cost: \$56,027

Employees: 0.78 FTE

Revenue Sources: User fees 58%

Grant funds 34%

Discretionary 7%

Delivery Measures:

- 115 Private drinking water sources evaluated
- 8 Plans reviewed for new small public water systems
- 1 Water systems reviewed for real estate transactions/loans
- 16 Existing or proposed larger public water sources evaluated
- 34 Sanitary Surveys of smaller Group A public water systems conducted
- 39 Sanitary Surveys of Group B public water systems conducted

Notes & Updates:

- Added in-house laboratory testing service for nitrates
- Providing sampling containers at various remote locations throughout the District

Challenges:

- Periodically notify Group B water system operators/owners of sampling requirement and need for follow-up if contamination is indicated
- Locate Group B sources using Global Positioning System technology.

